

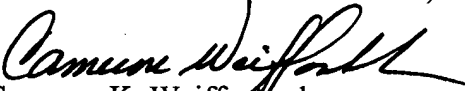
REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 13-16 and 18 were previously canceled. Claim 17 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Palmour (U.S. Patent No. 5,459,107) and Ueno (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,326). It is proposed to cancel claim 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Claims 19 and 20 stand withdrawn from further consideration due to a restriction requirement. It is proposed to cancel these claims without prejudice or disclaimer subject to Applicant's right to file a divisional application on the non-elected invention. The proposed amendment would put the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered. Allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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